

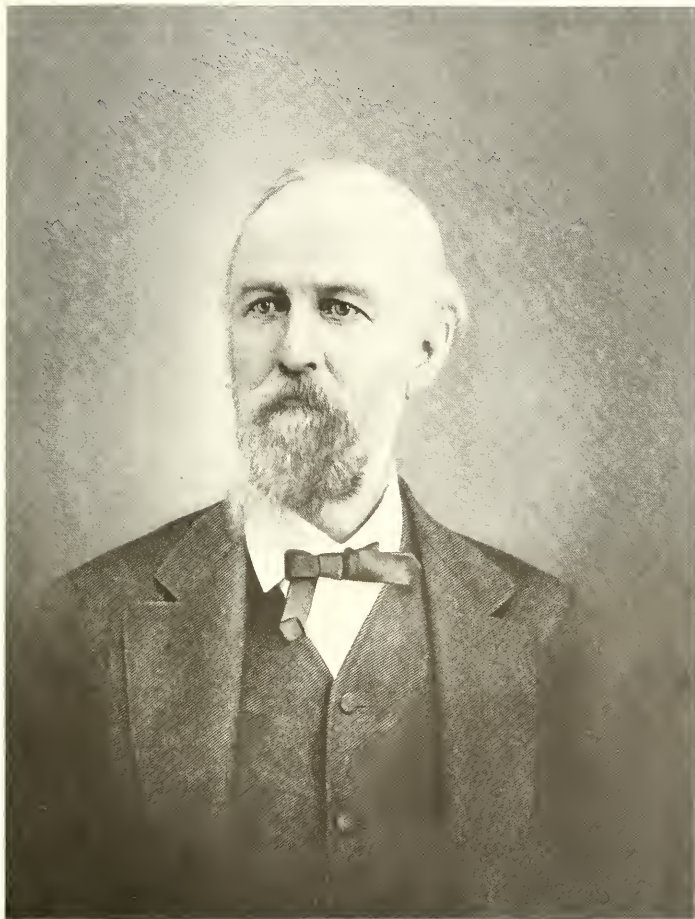
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# The Flyleaf

Friends of Fondren Library Vol. 43, No. 2

Winter 1993



**General William Harrison Hamman**  
**1830-1890**



## Dear Friends:

Our 1992-93 academic year has had a wonderful beginning! Thanks to program chairman Charles Maynard, Jr., we've had a number of stimulating speakers this fall.

"An Evening With David Westheimer" in early November was a great success, and we had an appropriately appreciative audience in the Kyle Morrow Room during Homecoming Weekend to celebrate the achievements of Friends' past president, Walter S. Baker, Jr. We shared the homecoming spotlight with the Rice Engineering Alumni in honoring their (and our) W. Bernard Pieper.

On Tuesday, January 12, our "Reception Honoring Rice Authors" introduced Rice faculty, staff, alumni and members of the Friends who published during 1992. The event was held in the Grand Hall of Rice Memorial Center. This year, authors' tables were set up around the room for book autographs and conversations. The Campus Store currently has the honorees' books for sale.

The authors' reception will be followed on Sunday, February 7, by our annual "Schubertiad," sponsored jointly with the

Shepherd School of Music at 3:00 p.m. In addition, we are gearing up for a big book sale on Saturday, April 24, so if you have books to donate, give the Friends' office a call at 285-5157.

The azaleas will be in blossom when we celebrate our thirteenth Fondren Saturday Night on Saturday, April 3. Be sure to mark your calendar, because you will not want to miss honoring a member of Rice's first family, H. Malcolm Lovett. As usual, the gala will be held at Cohen House and will feature an exciting auction.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Friends of Fondren Library. A library is the heart of a great university, and it is wonderful to know that Rice has so many friends who realize the importance of having an outstanding library.

Sincerely,

*Elaine D. Davis*

Elaine Illig Davis  
President

### RICE UNIVERSITY FONDREN LIBRARY

Founded under the charter of the University dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present facility was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library recorded its half-millionth volume in 1965; its one millionth volume was celebrated April 22, 1979.

### THE FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' contributions and sponsorship of a memorial and honor gift program, secure gifts and bequests and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials that are needed to support teaching and research at the University.

### THE FLYLEAF

Founded October 1950 and published quarterly by the Friends of Fondren Library, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251-1892. *The Flyleaf* is a record of Fondren Library's and Friends' activities, and of the generosity of the library's supporters.



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**Cover photo of General  
Hamman supplied by Fondren  
Library's Woodson Research  
Center. See story on page 8.**

Managing Editor, Barbara Kile; Editor, Tammev Hood; Editorial Advisors: Betty Charles, William Pannill and Beth Shapiro

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## Darby reminisces on days at Rice Institute

Although her great-grandfather was the first president of the Republic of Texas, Charlotte Williams Darby refuses to take any credit for the collection of his papers that she presented to Fondren Library in 1986.

"I can take no credit for the collection because it was my daddy's, who was the grandson of General Sam Houston," she said. "The Franklin Weston Williams Collection of Sam Houston Materials" was donated to the Fondren Library in honor of Darby's late father, who collected the letters and other documents that relate to General Houston. According to Darby, her father inherited some of the papers and some were given to him by different people because he was very interested in the family's history.

Because of the "special interest" that she takes in her alma mater, Darby placed the material in the archives of Fondren Library's Woodson Research Center. "I felt having gone to Rice, and daddy knowing so many men who were connected to Rice, that the papers belonged there," she said.

Darby attended Rice Institute for three years and in 1929 graduated with a Liberal Arts degree with a major in romance language. "In those days, it was the kind of degree most girls received. We just finished school, got married and raised a family. Things were quite different back then in comparison to things today," commented Darby.

"Rice was so different when I went to school there. There were no girls dormitories, nor were there any sororities or fraternities. We formed literary societies as our answer to sororities," she said with a smile. "Some of the original professors were still teaching, which made my learning experi-

ence at Rice very special. Campus life was intertwined with the city. Therefore, our social life was centered in Houston," she reminisced. Darby remembers the occasional dances at the Autry House, but claims the most famous social gatherings were held in downtown Houston at the Rice Roof (located on top of the Rice Hotel building), and the College Inn, which once stood on South Main Street across from the Rice campus.

"Houston was very small at that time, and everyone knew each other. The city was very different when I was growing up and in a lot of ways it was more fun because it was so small." Darby grew up in Houston as an only child in a home that was located in the vicinity of the current-day St. Joseph's Hospital Professional Building. Her father settled in Houston when Texas was an independent state, and her mother was here before the Civil War.

After graduating from Rice, she married her husband, the late James A. Darby, and raised two daughters, Ann Darby Kennett and Charlotte Darby Taylor, and a son, James Darby, Jr., all of whom currently live in Houston. She is an active member of First Presbyterian Church and The Junior League of Houston and said that other personal interests include Rice University, museums that feature Texas history, and her seven grandchildren.

Darby's donation of the Sam Houston papers to Fondren Library was finalized last year. The collection consists of over 200 letters and other documents that pertain to Houston, and she urges anyone who has an interest in Texas history to visit Fondren Library's Woodson Research Center to read through the collection.

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## Friends book sale scheduled for April

The Friends of Fondren will hold a book sale on Saturday, April 24, in the Grand Hall of the Rice Memorial Center. Numerous books have already been donated and they're still being received. Volunteers will be needed to sort books and help with the sale. If you would like to donate books or volunteer to assist with the upcoming sale, please call 285-5157.



## Baker and Pieper honored at Homecoming Brunch



Walter Baker, Jr.



Mr. and Mrs. W. Bernard Pieper

Walter Baker, Jr. was honored at the Friends' annual Homecoming Brunch as a leader and visionary who helped set the Friends of Fondren Library on a productive and modern course in the late 1970s.

On November 7, Baker received the Friends of Fondren Library service award at the annual awards ceremony which was jointly sponsored with the Rice Engineering Alumni.

Friends' President Elaine Davis introduced Baker to a crowd of over 200 Rice alumni, friends and guests, and pointed out his continued loyalty to the Friends of Fondren, which she said was even evident on the day of the awards ceremony.

"Walter has made a supreme sacrifice to be here today, because traditionally every first weekend in the month of November he faithfully takes his entire family to their place near Somerville for his annual weekend hunting trip, but this year his loyalty to the Friends caused him to leave the guns in their racks and postpone the trip until next weekend."

Graduating from Rice in 1953 with a B.A. in Economics, Baker served as president of the Friends from 1978-1981. Under his leadership, the Friends changed from an all volunteer group that solicited library memberships to a "vital" outreaching organization, said Davis. He is credited with numerous successes during his tenure

as president. Membership increased from 195 to over 500 members while Baker was in office. Also while under his guidance, the Friends hosted the first successful Fondren Saturday Night. Baker chaired the fundraising committee whose enormous efforts rewarded the Friends with the Sarah Lane Lounge. In his last year of office, the Friends was strengthened by the establishment of an endowment given by Malcolm and Martha Lovett. According to Davis, during Baker's term as Friends' president, revenue from Gifts and Memorials soared to an average of \$60,000 per year and the Lovett endowment increased four-fold. His fundraising efforts helped the organization widen its financial support of the library.

Baker's distinguished contributions to the Friends of Fondren earned him the annual service award, which was presented in appreciation for his efforts toward the enhancement of Fondren Library and Rice University.

The second presentation of the awards ceremony honored W. Bernard Pieper as the Rice outstanding engineering alumnus for 1992. The award was presented by Rice Engineering Alumni Society President Walter Richardson. Pieper, '53 B.A., '54 B.S. Civil Engineering, was selected by the Rice Engineering Alumni Board of Directors to receive the award for his work and numerous accomplishments in the field of engineering.

## Homecoming '92



From left: Martha Law Broussard, Bonnie Sue Woolridge and Nancy Rupp



From left: Martha Strawn and Rachel Deskin



From left: Karen Rogers and Colleen Jennings



From left: Tom Smith, Pam Smith and Marilyn Moore

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## Schubertiad to be held February 7

The Friends of Fondren and the Shepherd Society will sponsor this year's Schubertiad on Sunday, February 7, in Alice Pratt Brown Concert Hall, Shepherd School of Music at 3:00 p.m. The 19th century style musical event will feature performances by students of the Shepherd School of Music.

## Friends co-host an evening with David Westheimer



David Westheimer returned to Rice as the guest of honor at a reception sponsored by the Friends of Fondren and the Rice University Press, where he autographed copies of his most recent book *Sitting It Out*.

Famous author and Rice graduate David Westheimer returned to his alma mater on November 9 as the guest of honor at a reception sponsored by the Friends of Fondren Library and Rice University Press.

The event, "An Evening With David Westheimer," was held in the Grand Hall of the Rice Memorial Center and presented an opportunity for the Friends, Rice faculty and staff, alumni, and fans to meet and hear the experiences of the author behind the best selling novels *Von Ryan's Express* and *Von Ryan Returns*.

Graduating from Rice in 1937 with a degree in chemistry, but unable to get a job in his field, Westheimer worked odd jobs as a cashier, clerk and a truck driver. He began his writing career at the Houston Post in 1939 and worked there until 1941 when he was drafted by the Army. As a navigator on a B-24 bomber during W.W. II, Westheimer's plane was shot down by the enemy and he spent the next two years in Italian and German prison camps. His prison camp experiences are the basis for the storyline in

the novel that vaulted him to fame, *Von Ryan's Express*. He credits the book's success to coming along when it was time for a W.W. II book. Nearly two years after his release from a German prison camp, Westheimer wrote a set of memoirs detailing his experiences as a POW. The memoirs were published by the Rice University Press as his most recent book *Sitting It Out*.

After the war, Westheimer returned to his job as an assistant to the television editor at the Post. In 1960, he left the Post as a television editor and moved to Los Angeles, a move that he said changed his life. Once in Los Angeles, he got a job as a writer and the idea for *Von Ryan's Express* surfaced in 1962. The rest is a Rice success story.

Westheimer returned to Rice in November expressing how nice it was to be back home. He began his address to a very attentive audience reading from a rejection letter he received from a former publisher pertaining to the publishing of his POW memoirs. "Although this author's work has done well for us in the past, I do not think

## Events cont.

that we could make success of this memoir since his name is no longer well enough known," wrote the publisher.

Alluding to Houston's Westheimer Road, he responded by assuring himself and the audience that, "Within ten miles of here (Rice University) my name is pretty well known, so I think I should probably stick around." Westheimer continued his discussion with brief descriptions of some of his novels detailing storylines and how he got his ideas.

He sometimes forgot names and specifics, but only had to call on his wife Dodie, who graduated from Rice in 1942, to help him remember. Westheimer, light-heartedly contributed his forgetfulness to his age, and said that as long as he had Dodie, he really had nothing to worry about. After completing a brief narration of his published novels, he answered questions from the audience and autographed copies of his book *Sitting It Out*, which he says will probably be his last.

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## Collections:

### ***Sitting It Out* manuscript added to Rice archives**

Last November, David Westheimer passed on to Rice his original set of over 500 pages of notes that describe his 28-month experience as a prisoner of war during W.W. II. The notes were recently published by the Rice University Press in Westheimer's latest book, *Sitting It Out*.

The original notes, drafts, manuscript and correspondence relating to the book will be housed among the Rice graduate's collection of material located in Fondren Library's Woodson Research Center. The David Westheimer Collection includes: drafts of the best selling author's previous novels and plays, manuscripts, galley proofs, an old Rice Institute English research paper, correspondence between Westheimer, his family and the families of fellow POWs during W.W. II, letters received from a convicted Japanese murderer in an Osaka prison, and other miscellaneous materials and correspondence.

It is evident from the memoirs, which were written nearly two years after his release, that while imprisoned in the camps, the ultimate goal for Westheimer was survival. He begins with a description of the events that unfolded after his plane was shot down in Italy during W.W. II and he was picked up by Italian police. Westheimer writes upon realization that he did not die in the crash, "The comforting thought that I was alive pushed back the crowded, nervous thoughts of home and the future."

According to Westheimer's notes, the

POWs were determined to remain informed with what was going on with the war as well as within the United States during their captivity. Westheimer states the impact of the news of then President Roosevelt's death after it reached their ears. "We were severely shocked by the news of President Roosevelt's death, and there were tears in many eyes. We were supposed to hide our knowledge of news events so that the Germans would not know we had a secret source, but even the dumbest observer could tell we knew of the president's death from our dejected attitude. Although we did not feel that the speedy end of the war was delayed in any way, our morale suffered greatly for several days. Most of us had never heard of Truman and his name sounded strange on our tongue."

Westheimer carefully displays a great concern for detail as he wrote of the days, weeks and months that unfolded while he was being held as a prisoner of war. He reminisced, "Among the things we missed as much as anything else were creature comforts, little things that made life easier and were taken for granted outside." His list included among other things: a gas stove to cook on, a radio to listen to, comfortable chairs to sit in and a convenient, hot shower or tub.

Also included in the Westheimer inventory are outlines, drafts and proofs of the novel that was once selected by the Book of



## Collections cont.

the Month Club, *Von Ryan's Express*. The storyline of this best selling novel was drawn from Westheimer's experience as a POW in W.W. II. The central character in this novel, Colonel Joseph Ryan, is a 40-year old American bomb group commander who is captured and held in a prison war camp in Abruzzi. While in the process of being transferred to a German prison camp, Colonel Ryan orchestrates a daring escape aboard a train bound for Germany and takes the train and all POWs to the war neutral zone of Switzerland.

His POW experiences were also drawn upon for another W.W. II based novel, *Lighter Than a Feather*, which Westheimer claims to be his best book. The story centers around an imaginary invasion of Japan without the Atom Bomb. This novel prompted correspondence from many Japanese readers of the book, including convicted Japanese murderer, Kazuhiko Yusa, while he was in an Osaka prison. During a period of three years, Yusa forwarded a series of letters to Westheimer, written in Japanese and later translated to English, expressing remorse for the crimes he had committed and thanking Westheimer for writing the book. "I feel very sorry that I opened the first page of your good book after I committed this crime," stated Yusa in a letter to Westheimer.

Of the other original manuscripts included in the Westheimer Collection, two are novels that were set in Houston—*Summer on the Water*, which has a racial theme, and *The Magic Fallacy*, which tells the story of two young boys, one of whom is demoralized by his very young stepmother.

Among the personal correspondence received from Westheimer, there are letters dating from 1942-45, that were written by the Westheimer family and families of other W.W. II POWs. In a 1943 letter sent to Mrs. Esther Westheimer, the War Department informed her that her son had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross Air Medal. Westheimer at that time remained a POW.

Original drafts of the novel *Watching Out for Dulie* are also among the material given to Rice. Narrated in the first person, the

story is about a television/radio editor, Sam Spaulding, who goes to England with colleagues to visit the set of a television series. Sam is accompanied on his trip by a cub reporter, Dulie Hudson, and is instructed by his boss to chaperon her and keep her out of trouble. The rest of the book lightheartedly details Sam's ordeal as Dulie's custodian.

Columns written by Westheimer when he worked for the Houston Post are also included in the collection. In one of the columns Westheimer describes a 1987 alumni gathering with Rice President George Rupp. Westheimer also used his Post column to recognize former Rice English Professor George Williams, whom he refers to as his mentor.

David Westheimer has had several books of fiction published since graduating from Rice and has placed all of the manuscripts and drafts in Fondren Library's Woodson Research Center.



Westheimer addresses audience in Rice Memorial Center's Grand Hall on November 9.

## General William H. Hamman created a legacy in Texas

**"I** am very pleased with this country, so far as I have seen. It is a healthy and delightful country. I think we shall in a short time be able to make a living here. As to making a fortune that is of course yet in the future."

Traveling to the Lone Star State in 1858 to practice law, General William Harrison Hamman (1830-1890) had no idea that the fortune he wrote about would be made from the Texas oil fields, nor did the native Virginian know of the legacy he would leave behind after his death in a state he referred to as "the land of the citron and olive—the Italy of America."

General Hamman's personal experiences, as well as business and legal ventures in Texas, are chronicled in a collection of material that was donated to Rice in 1967 by his grandson, John Hamman, Jr. and his wife. The William Harrison Hamman Collection consists of Civil War documents, letters, accounts of early Texas historical events, political opinions, personal correspondence and business and legal papers. Among other material in the Hamman Collection are the papers of General Hamman's wife, Mrs. Ella Hamman; John Hamman, founder of the Hamman Exploration Company (presently Hamman Oil and Refining Company); and various other Hamman family members.

The political and military material in the collection dates back to the 1850s, when William Hamman was commissioned in the Virginia Militia. At the beginning of the Civil War, Hamman was said to be among the first to join the colors of the Confederacy. He fought among the ranks of Robert E. Lee and then in Hood's Texas Brigade. An autographed photo of Lee and a copy of Hamman's certificate of membership in Hood's Texas Brigade are among the materials in the collection. The Hamman Papers detail Hamman's rise to Brigadier General in the Texas militia in 1864. After the war ended, General Hamman stated his feelings in a letter which was said to reflect the bitterness of the defeated South. "Let us do all we can to restore our country to prosperity and happiness so far as may be under the

circumstances. This does not require us to make confessions of guilt, or even error," he wrote. "I am very much at a loss what to do myself. Shall I remain in this latitude?...But as I am not in a condition to change my location at present, I leave the question to be settled at some future day."

Hamman remained "in this latitude" and began the phase of his career that earned him the title of "Texas' first oil prospector." His career in the Texas oil patch is outlined in the collection of materials located in Fondren Library's Woodson Research Center. Hamman located and leased lands for oil exploration which would later become part of three major Texas oil fields: Spindletop, Sour Lake and Saratoga. The original leases, written in General Hamman's hand, are included among the Hamman Papers. Although Hamman did not live to see the fields become three of the greatest oil producers in Texas history, over forty years after he acquired them his heirs saw his dream become a reality.

General Hamman's son, John Hamman, Sr., worked in the development of the Spindletop field. He founded the Hamman Exploration Company, which now operates as Hamman Oil and Refining Company. John Hamman also aided in the development of mineral resources in Texas and belonged to the group that discovered the first South Texas sulphur in Freeport. Personal as well as business papers written and collected by John Hamman, Sr. are located in the Hamman collection.

Continuing the Hamman legacy, John Hamman, Jr. graduated from Harvard where he majored in geology and geophysics and obtained a master's degree in 1930. After graduation, he entered the oil and gas arena along with his younger brother George. The brothers discovered the prolific Hamman oil and gas field near Bay City in 1936. There are various forms of personal correspondence from John Hamman, Jr. in the collection of materials that was donated to Rice.

General William Harrison Hamman created a legacy in Texas surrounding the Hamman name that is still visible in the state today. The Hamman Oil and Refining

## Collections cont.

Company still operates in Houston as does the George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation. In 1958, Rice dedicated

Hamman Hall in memory of the late George Hamman. The 500-seat auditorium was a gift of his wife, Mary Josephine.

## The Friends of Fondren Library

August 1, 1992 - October 31,  
1992

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*The Friends of Fondren Library is  
most grateful to these new Friends  
for their interest and to the Friends  
of longer standing for their sup-  
port and for renewing their com-  
mitments.*

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August 1, 1992 - October 31, 1992

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Lait.

AUBREY M. FARB,  
on the occasion of his birthday  
and his 50th year since  
graduating from Rice, by his  
daughters.

MARION AND JIM  
HARGROVE,  
on the occasion of their 50th  
wedding anniversary, by  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Head

JEROME B. KEARBY, D.V.M.  
on the occasion of his  
retirement, by Connie M.  
Ericson.

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LAIGLE,  
on the occasion of their 40th  
wedding anniversary, by:  
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Mr. and Mrs. John M. McGinty  
Dean and Marilyn Moore  
Jo and H. D. Sullivan.

HELEN AND BENNETT  
BURNS,  
on the occasion of their 50th  
wedding anniversary, by  
Mrs. Mark J. Liverman.

ROBERT WILBUR SMITH,  
on the occasion of his  
birthday, by Ed Oppenheimer.

EWA M. THOMPSON,  
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by the Friends of Fondren  
Library.

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wedding, by Jeanne  
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